

4. A host cell comprising the isolated polynucleotide of Claim 1.

5. (Amended) The host cell of Claim 4, which is a *coryneform* bacterium.

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6. (Amended) The host cell of Claim 4, wherein said host cell is selected from the group consisting of *Corynebacterium glutamicum*, *Corynebacterium acetoglutamicum*, *Corynebacterium acetoacidophilum*, *Corynebacterium melassecola*, *Corynebacterium thermoaminogenes*, *Brevibacterium flavum*, *Brevibacterium lactofermentum*, and *Brevibacterium divaricatum*.

10. A method for making a RodA protein, comprising culturing the host cell of Claim

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4 for a time and under conditions suitable for expression of the RodA protein; and collecting the RodA protein.

11. An isolated polynucleotide, which comprises SEQ ID NO:1 and encodes a protein which has the activity of the RodA cell division protein.

12. An isolated polynucleotide, which is complimentary to the polynucleotide of Claim 11.

13. (Amended) An isolated polynucleotide, which is at least 70% identical to the polynucleotide of Claim 11 and encodes a protein which has the activity of the RodA cell division protein.

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14. (Amended) An isolated polynucleotide, which is at least 80% identical to the polynucleotide of Claim 11 and encodes a protein which has the activity of the RodA cell division protein.

15. (Amended) An isolated polynucleotide, which is at least 90% identical to the polynucleotide of Claim 11 and encodes a protein which has the activity of the RodA cell division protein.

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16. An isolated polynucleotide, which comprises at least 23 consecutive nucleotides of the polynucleotide of Claim 11.

17. An isolated polynucleotide, which hybridizes under stringent conditions to the polynucleotide of Claim 11 or the complement thereof; wherein said stringent conditions comprise washing in 5X SSC at a temperature from 50 to 68°C.

19. A vector comprising the isolated polynucleotide of Claim 11.

20. A host cell comprising the isolated polynucleotide of Claim 11.

21. (Amended) The host cell of Claim 20, which is a *coryneform* bacterium.

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22. (Amended) The host cell of Claim 20, wherein said host cell is selected from the group consisting of *Corynebacterium glutamicum*, *Corynebacterium acetoglutamicum*, *Corynebacterium acetoacidophilum*, *Corynebacterium melassecola*, *Corynebacterium thermoaminogenes*, *Brevibacterium flavum*, *Brevibacterium lactofermentum*, and *Brevibacterium divaricatum*.

26. A method for making RodA protein, comprising

- a) culturing the host cell of Claim 20 for a time and under conditions suitable for expression of the RodA protein; and
- b) collecting the RodA protein.

38. A process for producing an L-amino acid, comprising culturing the host cell of Claim 4 in a medium suitable for producing the L-amino acid.

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39. (Amended) The process of Claim 38, wherein said host cell is a *coryneform* bacterium or *Brevibacterium*.

40. The process of Claim 39, wherein said host cell is selected from the group consisting of *Corynebacterium glutamicum*, *Corynebacterium acetoglutamicum*, *Corynebacterium acetoacidophilum*, *Corynebacterium melassecola*, *Corynebacterium*

thermoaminogenes, Brevibacterium flavum, Brevibacterium lactofermentum, and Brevibacterium divaricatum.

41. The process of Claim 38, wherein the L-amino acid is L-lysine.
42. The process of Claim 38, further comprising isolating the L-amino acid.
43. A process for producing an L-amino acid, comprising culturing the host cell of

Claim 20 in a medium suitable for producing the L-amino acid.

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44. (Amended) The process of Claim 43, wherein said host cell is a *coryneform* bacterium or *Brevibacterium*.

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45. The process of Claim 44, wherein said host cell is selected from the group consisting of *Corynebacterium glutamicum*, *Corynebacterium acetoglutamicum*, *Corynebacterium acetoacidophilum*, *Corynebacterium melassecola*, *Corynebacterium thermoaminogenes*, *Brevibacterium flavum*, *Brevibacterium lactofermentum*, and *Brevibacterium divaricatum*.

46. The process of Claim 43, wherein the L-amino acid is L-lysine.
47. The process of Claim 43, further comprising isolating the L-amino acid.
48. An isolated polynucleotide, comprising at least 23 consecutive nucleotides of SEQ ID NO: 2, having the function of a primer in a polymerase chain reaction to prepare or amplify a polynucleotide encoding a protein/polypeptide having the activity of the RodA cell division protein.
49. An isolated polynucleotide comprising at least 23 consecutive nucleotides of SEQ ID NO: 2 or the complement thereof, having the function of a probe in a hybridization reaction to isolate, detect, or determine a polynucleotide encoding a protein/polypeptide having the activity of the RodA cell division protein.--